

SRFB Discussion and Approval of 5th Round Timeline Salmon Recovery Funding Board Meeting, July 2, 2003

Steve Tharinger presented a summary of the first meeting of the Issues Task Force (ITF) on July 1. He proposed a timeline for the Board to consider. With the number of issues the ITF was being asked to review and make recommendations on, they felt they had to deal with the timeline for the 5th Round first in order to prioritize the rest of the issues.

The ITF is recommending that the 5th Round start in January of 2004 with the SRFB's funding meeting some time in November of 2004. The 6th Round would then follow the same cycle, give or take a month or so. In essence there would be one major funding round within this biennium.

The ITF based this recommendation on the need to link grant rounds with sub-basin planning and the regional recovery planning process. This timeline will also give the ITF a chance to work through the number of issues in a thoughtful way and the lead entities time to work on their strategies and backlog of projects.

The ITF also based its recommended timeline on the state and federal budget cycles. The Board would be making funding decisions as the 2005-07 state budget is being developed by the Governor's Office in the fall of 2004. This fits well with the state budgeting process.

The Board agreed with the ITF recommendation for the 5th Grant Round beginning in January 2004. The Board will couple the announcement of this next cycle with a clear communication as to why the Board and ITF thinks this is an appropriate timeframe and what the Board would like to have the lead entities and others to be working on in the meantime so this next round will be the best round to date.

Several Lead Entity Advisory Group (LEAG) members were present at the Board meeting. Jay Watson, LEAG Chair, reported that he did a quick survey of LEAG members during a break in the meeting and they agreed with the proposed timeline recommendation.

Steve Tharinger then wrapped up the discussion with the other issues the ITF seeks Board direction on:

Outreach: The ITF would like to seek input from various stakeholders on the issues as they move forward, gathering comments and concerns and making adjustments to the recommendation prior to bringing the recommendation to the Board for consideration and decision. (The Board agreed to this process.)

Representation: Steve feels the ITF has a good cross section of representation. He wants to involve as many people as possible in the process but believes that to be able to work most efficiently the Task Force can't be too large. He would like to limit the number of ITF members but make sure stakeholders are able to provide feedback. If there are particular issues that stakeholders want the ITF to be aware of, there needs to be a process for them to get the information to the ITF. (The Board agreed with the need for a smaller focused task force and to allow a means for public input of concerns and/or additional issues.)